

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claims 6 and 15 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 21-23 have been added to this application. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 16-23 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over *Kraglund*. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by WO 97/22563 ("*Kraglund*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,617,045 ("*Bronshtein*"). This ground of rejection is traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that *Kraglund* fails to disclose the grain size of the correction materials. Nevertheless, the Examiner concludes that it would be obvious for one of skill in the art to optimize the grain size value of these materials within a range of less than 20 mm since *Kraglund* discloses that the final product (i.e., the briquettes) "that can be as small as 5mm" (Page 7, ll. 11-12.) The Examiner further concludes that *Kraglund* teaches "that starting materials shaped into a precompacted body would have to collectively be somewhat larger than 5 mm to form such a briquette" (Page 7, ll. 13-14.)

The grain size of the material used for the production of a mineral melt does *not* depend on the dimension of the final product. The grain size of the material is a factor which contributes to the *properties* of the melt, i. e. uniform distribution of all components within the melt, good melt ability and optimized product features. Therefore, not only does *Kraglund* fail to provide any indication regarding grain size, *Kraglund* fails to recognize that the claimed grain size of the correction material provides uniform compound distribution within the melt and, thus, the meltability of the used materials. Mineral melts are normally produced in continuously working furnaces or at least a semi continuously working furnace. In order to attain equal and uniform properties of mineral fibers produced from the melt, it is of great interest to have a melt which has an equal distribution of compounds. This is also an important factor as raw materials are continuously being introduced to the furnace. Spots of concentration of the compounds must be avoided. In Applicants' invention, grain size of the correction material is reduced in order to gain an equal distribution of compounds while, at the same time, providing excellent mechanical properties to the briquettes to which the raw material is compacted. The claimed grain size is not inherently disclosed in the *Kraglund* especially *Kraglund* fails to recognize the reason for employing the claimed grain size in the processing. In any event, as now amended, the grain size

of the granular combustion residue used in the process of Applicants is claimed to be less than or equal to 0.05 mm. Such a limitation is not suggested by *Kraglund*.

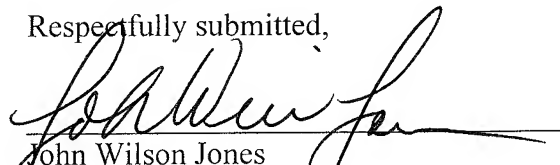
Bronshtein does not cure the deficiencies of *Kraglund* because *Bronshtein* merely discloses that reduction in size of a waste material reduces the amount of binder necessary to be used. Since the references, either alone or in combination, do not teach a granular combustion residue having a grain size less or equal to 0.05 mm and the use of correction materials having a grain size of 0 to 20 mm, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of the claims.

The Examiner's rejection of Claim 5 over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,402,801 ("*Faulmann*") and the rejection of Claim 13 over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,565,645 ("*Klein*") are also traversed. Neither *Faulmann* nor *Klein* cure the deficiencies of *Kraglund*, discussed *supra*. In particular, neither *Faulmann* nor *Klein* even remotely suggests the use of a grain size of the correction materials claimed by Applicants or the grain size of the granular combustion residues.

Conclusions. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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